



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **11 ILLEGAL ALIENS ARRESTED WORKING AT TEXAS MILITARY BASE**

*This is the third such operation conducted at NAS JRB Fort Worth since 2003*

FORT WORTH, Texas — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents announced today the arrest of 11 aliens suspected of working illegally at the Naval Air Station (NAS) Joint Reserve Base (JRB) here. ICE worked in coordination with the U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) and the Joint Law Enforcement and Security Department both located at NAS JRB, and with the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF).

The aliens were arrested early this morning following a 100-percent document check of non-military personnel at the military installation. Those arrested were all men from Mexico who had been contracted work on various projects at the base, such as striping for parking lots and general construction.

A similar operation was first conducted by ICE at NAS JRB in 2003 and 21 illegal aliens were arrested. Seven months later, another operation was conducted and three other illegal aliens were arrested. Of those arrested today, all are in ICE custody and have been placed in removal proceedings.

Today's arrests are the latest in ICE's ongoing efforts to target and remove illegal aliens working at sensitive sites and critical infrastructure locations around the nation, including defense facilities, nuclear plants, chemical plants, airports and seaports. In accordance with ICE's homeland security mission, ICE special agents prioritize worksite enforcement efforts by focusing on investigations related to critical infrastructure and national security.

"One of the keys to securing critical infrastructure organizations is through screening the credentials of those who try to enter these facilities," said John Chakwin, special agent-in-charge of the ICE Dallas office. "This is an ongoing process, and these operations are conducted with the full cooperation and partnership of the organization and other on-site law enforcement. We all recognize the need to know who has access to these sensitive areas."

Some other recent cases include the following:

- On Dec. 9, 14 illegal aliens were arrested at the Greater New Orleans Industrial Education Council (GNOIEC) in Kenner, La. The arrested workers were employed by A Golden Seal Restoration and were scheduled to work at the Conoco Phillips Alliance Refinery in Belle Chasse, La. All of the arrested workers possessed counterfeit social security cards and identity documents, which they presented to A Golden Seal Restoration to obtain employment. GNOIEC is a non-profit organization that provides safety-training classes for workers at petrochemical plants in the greater New Orleans area.
- On Dec. 1, ICE special agents teamed up with the Air Force Office of Special Investigation (OSI) and base Military Police to arrest 22 Mexican nationals who were illegally working for one of six subcontractors on a housing project at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, N.M. The individuals were arrested following a document check at the military installation.
- On Dec.2, in the New Mexico operation, ICE special agents teamed up with the Air Force Office of Special Investigation (OSI) and base Military Police to arrest 22 Mexican nationals who were illegally working for one of six subcontractors on a housing project at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, N.M. The individuals were arrested following a document check at the military installation. ICE first began checking documents at Kirtland AFB after receiving information from OSI and the U.S. Border Patrol about illegal aliens who were recently arrested trying to enter the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy installation.
- In Louisiana, ICE special agents arrested 20 illegal aliens Dec 1, who were unlawfully employed by a local company in Kenner, La. The company reportedly provided workers to several critical infrastructure facilities in the greater New Orleans area, including New Orleans International Airport and the Veterans Administration Hospital.
- On Nov. 30, ICE agents screened the identification of more than 450 contractors and sub-contractors working at the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base-New Orleans in Belle Chasse, La. ICE agents detained six illegal aliens today performing contract work at the base. The Naval Air Station had previously conducted its own investigation and formally barred more than a dozen workers from the facility. The facility later requested the assistance of ICE to further investigate employees working for contractors there. Last Thursday, ICE agents and base security intercepted 10 illegal aliens attempting to enter the Navy facility. The ICE investigation into the hiring practices of companies performing contract work at the Bell Chasse facility is ongoing.
- On October 27, ICE special agents teamed up with the White Sands Missile Range Police Department to arrest an illegal alien trying to enter the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico to perform contract work inside the facility. ICE agents processed the individual and placed him into deportation proceedings. Police officials at the facility first sought help from ICE two months ago after intercepting 12 illegal aliens with fake documents who were attempting to enter the facility to work at a construction site. The ICE investigation is continuing.

- On Oct. 5, ICE arrested three illegal aliens who served as language instructors at the U.S. Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, N.C. Two were criminally charged with using false documents to gain employment and making false statements. The third was charged with being in the country illegally. The employees provided instruction to U.S. Special Forces.
- On Oct. 4, seven illegal aliens were arrested at the U.S. Air Force Base in Mountain Home, Idaho, following an investigation by ICE and the Air Force Office of Special Investigations. The men were working for Nutek Construction, which was sub-contracted to build housing on the air base.
- On Aug. 26, ICE agents arrested six Mexican nationals at the U.S. Army's Fort Irwin in Barstow, Calif. The men were working illegally for Laurence-Hovenier Inc., a construction company building military housing at the base. The workers, most of whom had security badges authorizing them to enter the base, were identified after agents audited the hiring records of more than 700 Laurence-Hovenier workers. The audit found that more than 40 percent of the employees on the company's payroll might not have been authorized to work in the U.S. The investigation continues.
- On July 26, ICE agents arrested six illegal aliens working at the Homestead Air Reserve Base in Homestead, Fla. The men, who were contracted by a Texas-based corporation, were working on a major runway-resurfacing project. Officers working at the Air Reserve's main gate noticed irregularities in the documents presented by the three men and called ICE for follow-up.

#ICE#

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*